



LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION
State Capitol, 700 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601



LRC Legislative Intern Program 2010

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION
Frankfort, Kentucky

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provides an opportunity for self-motivated, outgoing, and qualified college students to gain an understanding of the legislative process by actively participating in it.



Photo by Rick McComb



House
Chamber



The 2008 Interns
with Governor
Steve Beshear.

Students will spend four months working with Legislative Research Commission staff and members of the General Assembly. They will be trained and treated like actual employees of the LRC.

Students are placed in areas that best utilize their personal interests and/or qualifications. These areas include the legislative committee staff, the director's office, constituent services, and the public information office.

The interns will receive a \$1,000 monthly allowance (subject to all applicable taxes) and be responsible for their own housing, meals, and other expenses while in Frankfort.

In the past, the legislative intern program has not only aided in developing the talents of the interns, but has also helped give direction to their career goals.

The interns make new friends and often develop professional contacts during the four-month program.



2008 Interns enjoying lunch.



Senate President David Williams
talking with Intern Class.



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LRC Director's Office

The director of the Legislative Research Commission has his own staff whose responsibility is to monitor and organize all activities within the LRC.

An intern placed in this position will be responsible for tracking the progress of bills and resolutions that specifically affect the General Assembly, the LRC, or that call for specialized studies. Other duties include assistance with incoming research requests, delivery of bills and information to members on the House or Senate floor, preparation of the Legislative Record, and other bill tracking and bill preparation duties.

An intern assigned to the Director's Office should have excellent organizational skills and an ability to work effectively under the pressure of deadlines.

Committee Staff Assignments

An intern assigned to a committee staff will aid professional staff members in the drafting and tracking of bills, legal research, and preparation for committee meetings.

Interns have a great deal of responsibility and the work they do helps prepare legislation that will affect the entire state. In addition, by working as assistants to committee staff, interns have an excellent opportunity to learn about the legislative process, the legalities involved, and the issues confronting the General Assembly from experienced lawyers, analysts, and politicians. By developing working relationships with these professionals, interns who work as assistants to committee staff are given a behind-the-scenes look into the General Assembly

that few people are afforded.

Interns might be assigned to one of several committees. These include Health and Welfare, Judiciary, Labor and Industry, and Education, to name a few. Therefore, students of all academic backgrounds and interests can benefit from this internship program.

Constituent Services

The Constituent Services Office handles constituent matters by phone and mail. By doing this, the office staff assist legislators in responding to constituents who may have a complaint, request, or problem communicating with a government entity.

This placement offers interns an excellent opportunity to familiarize themselves with issues that affect the daily lives of average Kentuckians. Essentially, these interns act as liaisons between lawmakers and the public and will deal with a wide number and variety of people daily. Many of those people will be facing personal crises or will have strong opinions on certain issues. A constituent-services intern must be pleasant and helpful in all circumstances.

Public Information Office

Interns with an interest in journalism or political communication may be placed with LRC's Public Information Office during the session. This placement is different from the others in that it is less research-oriented and more communications-oriented.

The information office is responsible for writing press releases, speeches, newspaper columns, and photo cutlines. It also has a photography section as well as radio and video services.

An intern placed in Public Information will have the rare opportunity of working on the Senate and House floors during proceedings, as well as attending and helping arrange press conferences held by the legislators. This placement requires well-developed writing and communications skills. Journalism and communications majors are usually considered best qualified. Generally, no more than two interns will be placed with Public Information.

Academic Work

Qualified instructors at LRC organize and oversee two courses for which academic credit is given. These courses consist of two weekly seminars that generally feature guest speakers with special expertise in governmental or legislative matters. State government executives and policy-makers from the legislative, executive, and judicial branches are represented. The seminars are scheduled around the availability of the speakers during the session.

The first academic course, "The Kentucky Legislative Process," deals with political dimensions of the General Assembly and the comprehensive process of establishing public policy. The second course, "Challenges of State Government," examines state government as a whole, including issues of policy analysis, the role of various agencies, and how they work together.

Three hours of course credit are recommended for each of the two seminars. In addition, nine hours of academic credit are recommended for the intership itself. Thus, a student's own college or university may allow a total of 15 hours credit for the entire program.

The LRC does not require that a student submit a research paper. However, LRC staff are available to assist students who are required by their campus professors to prepare a research paper analyzing some aspect of the General Assembly.

Application & Selection

The 2010 program will run from January to early May 2010. It will include an orientation prior to the opening of the 2010 session of the General Assembly. Interns must register with their own college or university and pay the normal tuition and fees required of a full-time student.

To qualify for the program, a student must be at least a junior by January 2010, have an overall grade-point average of 2.8 or better on a four-point scale, and have been active in campus activities.

Interested students attending college in Kentucky should complete an application and return it to their campus coordinator, or send it directly to LRC if the campus coordinator prefers that they do so. All

applications must be received by LRC from students and campus coordinators before April 16, 2009.

Several students will be chosen as finalists and will be invited to Frankfort, during the following two weeks, for an interview with a panel of LRC staff. Up to 20 students will be selected for the program and will be notified before May 1, 2009.

Campus Coordinators

Alice Lloyd College	Ms. Janet Johnson
Asbury College	Ms. Lora Cuckler
Bellarmino College	Dr. Aaron Hoffman
Berea College	Dr. John Heyrman
Brescia University	Dr. Waheed Kahn
Campbellsville University . . .	Mr. John E. Chowning
Centre College	Ms. Deb Jones
Eastern Kentucky University	Dr. Dana Patton
Georgetown College	Dr. John Dalager
Kentucky State University	Dr. James Chapman
Kentucky Wesleyan College	Dr. Bill Conroy
Lindsey Wilson College	Dr. Stephan Brooks
Midway College	Ms. Emily Coleman
Morehead State University	Dr. Erik Lind Lewis
Murray State University	Dr. James Clinger
Northern Kentucky University .	Dr. Julie Kunselman
Pikeville College	Dr. L. Kay Hardesty
Spalding University	Dr. Richard Hudson
Thomas More College	Dr. Paul Tenkotte
Transylvania University	Ms. Susan Rayer
Union College	Dr. Robert Armour
University of Kentucky	Dr. Christopher Rice
University of Louisville	Dr. Jason Gainous
University of the Cumberland	Dr. Bruce Hicks
Western Kentucky University	Dr. Scott Lasley

Legislative Research Commission

The Kentucky Legislative Research Commission is a 16-member committee, comprised of the majority and minority leadership of the Kentucky Senate and House of Representatives. Under Chapter 7 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, the Commission constitutes the administrative arm of the Kentucky General Assembly. Its director serves as chief administrative officer of the Legislative Branch.

For questions, contact: Sheila Mason, LRC Intern Coordinator, 1-502-564-8100.